

In recent days, Sinclair Broadcasting has ordered its 62 local television stations to air Stolen Honor, a film attacking Senator John Kerry's Vietnam record. It is, of course, no coincidence that the film would be broadcast immediately before the nation is to decide whether or not Kerry will be the next President of the United States.

One of the basic foundations of democracy is the availability of free media. As such, this sort of attempt to influence the outcome of a presidential election and undermine democracy should not be tolerated in television stations broadcast on the public airwaves and under the requirement that they operate for the public good. Furthermore, this is not an isolated incident. Sinclair also sent investigators to Iraq to mine for pro-war stories and ordered its local anchors to read editorials supporting President Bush's stance - presumably misleading the public into believing that the views were those of the anchors - after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Two of my local affiliates, WLFL 22 and WRDC 28 in Raleigh, NC, are Sinclair networks. My community would be much better served by broadcasts involving the many relatively unknown local candidates who will be up for election in a few weeks than by the showing of Stolen Honor.

The owners and executives at Sinclair have given 97 percent of their political contributions to Republicans in this election cycle, and are now trying to use the airwaves with which the public has entrusted them as sounding boards for their political agendas. Therefore, I submit that as the guardians of the public's interest on the airwaves, the FCC must reduce Sinclair's media holdings by rejecting any attempt to expand them as well as the applications for license renewal of the stations listed above.